THE WATERLINE

Happy Holidays from your friends at the Water Department

New "U" helps those paying bill via internet

A way of paying your water and sewer bill that's becoming more popular with San Diegans is via the internet. The Water Department is making sure this system works smoothly by adding a "U" to the front of each water and sewer account number. The "U" helps distinguish water and sewer accounts from other City of San Diego account numbers.

"We're getting more and more customers signing up with internet sites that allow them to pay their bills electronically," said Mike Bresnahan, Customer Support Division Assistant Deputy Director. "For many people it's easier than writing checks and licking stamps and returning their payment via regular mail."

After setting up an account at an internet site, customers then key in their water and sewer account number. Customers with existing internet accounts need to add the "U" in front of their 10-digit water and sewer account number while new customers need to make sure they include the "U". This will ensure the account is paid quickly and accurately.

Another easy way to pay bills is the Direct Debit Program. In this program customers get notification of the amount of their bill and the date upon which that amount will be automatically debited from their checking account. To sign up either

— Photo by Greg Lambert

Students from Jackson Elementary School, located on the alignment of the new pipeline, check out a large water valve during the celebration.

Mid-City Pipeline offers enhanced service to area

Community members, government officials and city representatives gathered recently to celebrate the completion of the Mid-City water pipeline that now provides enhanced water service to the area. The celebration marked the completion of the 4.5-mile project that began in December, 1999.

"This long-awaited pipeline will provide a safe and reliable water supply for local residents and for city services," said San Diego Mayor Dick Murphy. "After six years of planning and two years of construction, this is the first major project of its kind to be completed in our effort to improve water service citywide."

The pipeline, which delivers up to

43 million gallons of water a day, provides a backup water supply and increased reliability to the Mid-City area while allowing the Water Department to inspect and repair portions of the existing pipeline built in the 1950s. The total cost of the project was approximately $25 million and was funded by water rates, revenue bonds and capacity charges.

The Mid-City area of San Diego includes the communities of City Heights, College Area, Darnall, El Cerrito, Kensington, North Park, Normal Heights, Oak Park, Redwood Village, Rolando, Talmadge and University Heights.

The Mid-City Pipeline Project is part of the City of San Diego Water Department's citywide Capital Improvements Program. Water infrastructure improvements (replacements, upgrades and expansions) are underway throughout the City's water system, including pipelines, water pump stations, reservoirs and treatment plants. These improvements will help ensure a safe and reliable water supply, protecting the region's job base, environment and overall quality of life for future generations.

Additional information about other important Water Department infrastructure projects can also be found online at www.sandiego.gov/water. Or, contact the Capital Improvements Public Information Line at (619) 533-4679.

call a Customer Services Representative at (619) 515-3500, or print out an application form at the Department's website at www.sandiego.gov/water. Click on "Water Bill/Rates" and then on "How to pay your water/sewer bill by automatic deduction."

Just complete the application and return it to the address listed on the form along with a voided check.

Christmas Tree Recycling available at 25 sites

The day after Christmas will kick off the City of San Diego's 29th Annual Christmas Tree Recycling Program. This year's program will offer 25 residential drop-off locations citywide. These sites will accept trees for recycling through January 17, 2003.

All Christmas trees, including flocked (fake snow), will be recycled into mulch and compost. These landscaping materials are available to city residents for free at the Miramar Greenery.

Residents participating in the Christmas Tree Recycling Program must plan to drop off only clean trees during daylight hours. All tree stands, nails and staples must be removed before a tree can be recycled. Ornaments and other tree decorations cannot be recycled and must be disposed of as trash. Please do not illegally dump non-recyclable items at the drop-off locations.

Residents with curbside greenery recycling can also recycle their trees through the curbside collection program by placing trees at the curb with the regular greenery recycling. Residents who wish to recycle trees through the curbside recycling program are required to remove all non-recyclable materials before placing trees in with greenery.

An important change in the list of drop off sites this year is in the community of City Heights. The Colina Del Sol Swimming Pool will not be a tree recycling site this year, instead residents can use the nearby Gloria's Mesa Parking Lot at 6350 College Grove Dr.

The following are the drop-off locations:

• **Carmel Valley:** Carmel Valley Recreation Center, 3777 Townsgate Drive, lower parking lot.
• **City Heights:** City Farmers Nursery, 4832 Home Avenue at Euclid Avenue.
• **Clairemont:** Clairemont Mesa Boulevard @ Diane Street.
• **College Grove:** Chollas Lake, 6350 College Grove Drive, in Gloria's Mesa parking lot.
• **Encanto:** Cielo Drive at Woodman Street.
• **Golden Hill:** Golden Hill Recreation Center, 2600 Golf Course Drive.
• **La Jolla:** Soledad Park, Soledad Road, by the cross
• **Logan Heights:** Memorial Recreation Center, 2902 Marcy Avenue.
• **Mira Mesa:** Mira Mesa Little League ball fields, near Salem St.
• **Miramar:** Miramar Landfill, Convoy Street north of Highway 52.
• **Mission Bay:** Sea World Drive at Pacific Highway.
• **Mission Valley:** Super Target parking lot in Mission Valley Center.
• **Mountain View:** Mountain View Recreation Center, Ocean View Boulevard at 40th Street.
• **Ocean Beach:** Robb Field Recreation Center, 2525 Bacon Street.
• **Otay Mesa/Nestor:** Montgomery Waller Community Park (upper and lower-west parking lots).
• **Rancho Bernardo:** Pinery Christmas Tree Company,13421 Highland Valley Road.
• **Rancho Penasquitos:** Canyon-side Recreation Center, 12350 Black Mountain Road.
• **San Diego State University:** Parking Lot D off Alvarado Road.
• **San Carlos:** San Carlos Recreation Center, 6445 Lake Badin Ave.
• **Scripps Ranch:** Hoyt Park Canyon off Aviary Drive, and Scripps Ranch Recreation Center, 11454 Blue Cypress Drive.
• **Serra Mesa:** Serra Mesa Recreation Center, 9020 Village Glen Drive.
• **Tierrasanta:** De Portola Middle School, 11010 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.
• **University City:** Swanson Pool, 3585 Governor Drive and Doyle Recreation Center, on Cargill Ave.

Additional information about residential drop-off sites in the City of San Diego is available by calling the City of San Diego Recycling Hotline at (858) 694-7000.

For information on mulch and compost produced at the Miramar Greenery, please call the Miramar Landfill at (858) 573-1420.

Important Water Department numbers

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

To report a water line break or a sewer overflow 515-3525
To ask a question about your water or sewer bill 515-3500
To find out where you can pay your bill 515-3500
For Water Conservation Program information 515-3500
To establish or cancel water or sewer services 515-3500
To ask about San Diego's drinking water 668-3232
For Lakes Recreation Program information 465-3474
To schedule a presentation through the Speaker's Bureau 533-6638
To ask the location of a City water or sewer line 527-7482
Capital Improvements Projects Hotline 533-4679
San Diego City Lakes Hotline 465-3474
To report water theft from the Water Department 533-4146
(All phone numbers are 619 area code)